

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 19 have been amended. Entry of these amendments after final rejection is earnestly solicited, as they are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeWolf et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0032626) in view of Dinapoli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,754,122); Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeWolf in view of Dinapoli, and in further view of Ukai et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0191581); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeWolf in view of Dinapoli, and in further view of Windle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,926,331); Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeWolf in view of Dinapoli, and in further view of Lancaster (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0065707); Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai in view of DeWolf; Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai in view of DeWolf, and in further view of Lancaster; Claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster in view of Ukai and DeWolf; Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster in view of Ukai and DeWolf, and in further view of Windle; and claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster in view of DeWolf. Favorable reconsideration of these rejections is solicited in view of the amendments made herein

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the following. After the computer system has provided to a customer the usage history of the article in a usage history provision step, if the article is used while being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the computer system recollects the usage data in a usage data recollecting step and updates the usage history in a usage data updating step, then, provides the updated usage history in an updated usage history provision step. Ukai, Dinapoli, and the other references fail to disclose a system that recollects the usage data while an article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, and present the updated usage history.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the following. After the computer system has provided to a customer the current state data of the article in a current state data provision step, if the article is used while being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the computer system recollects the current state data in a current state data recollecting step and updates the usage history in an usage data updating step, then, provides the updated current state data in an updated current state data provision step. Ukai, Dinapoli, and the other references fail to disclose a system that recollects the current state data while an article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, and present the updated current state data.

Claims 11 and 19 have been similarly amended to emphasize the differences noted above.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

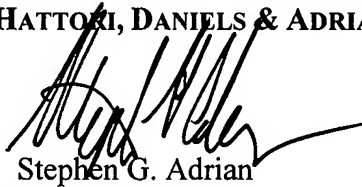
Amendment After Final Rejection
Serial No. 10/051,048
Attorney Docket No. 020011

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applications would desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Adrian', is written over the printed name.

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